

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 36-40 and 46-50 are pending upon entry of this amendment. Claims 36 and 46 have been amended and claims 1-35 and 41-45 have been canceled. Support for the claim amendments is found in the specification. No new matter has been added by the claim amendments.

Claims 30-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,281,145 to Deguchi.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Amended claim 36 recites "developing time derivation means for deriving a developing time for developing the exposed substrate based on the at least one type, the one substrate treating condition, and the stored correlations," among other elements. Applicants respectfully submit that Deguchi does not teach or suggest at least these elements in the manner claimed. For at least these reasons, claim 36 is in condition for allowance.

As discussed in the specification, for example, at paragraph [0122] - [0124], a developing time is derived from the substrate treating conditions selected by the user and the correlations read from the correlation memory. The development process is then performed based on the derived development time.

Deguchi discusses a control system in reference to FIG. 5. After selection of one of four types of resist, the control system supplies the resist at a rate associated with the type of resist selected. (Deguchi at col. 5, lines 1-14). Thus, although Deguchi discusses controlling the rate at which the resist is supplied, Deguchi provides no discussion of an apparatus that provides means for deriving a developing time as recited by the amended claim. Thus, for at least these reasons, claim 36 is allowable over Deguchi.

Claims 37-40, which depend from claim 36, are in condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 36, as well as for the additional elements they recite.

Claim 46 has been amended to recite elements similar to claim 36. For at least these reasons, claim 46 and claims 47-50, which depend from claim 46, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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